

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 5, and 7, 8, 10, and 12 remain pending in the application. Claims 4, 6, 9 and 11 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter thereof.

Reconsideration of the rejections and allowance of the pending application in view of the foregoing amendment and following remarks are respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, claim 4 is objected to under 37 CFR 1.75 (c), as being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim. The Examiner further indicates that claims 10 and 12 will be objected to under 37 C.F.R. 1.75 as being substantial duplicates thereof, should claims 9 and 11 be found allowable.

In response, claims 4, 9 and 11 have been canceled, as noted above. Thus, the objection to claim 4 and the double patenting rejection of claims 10 and 12 are now moot.

In the Official Action claims 1, 4, 7, and 9-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lefèvre, FR 2639909 A1, and claims 2, 3, 5 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lefèvre in view of Lewis, U.S. Patent No. 6,070,723. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to more clearly distinguish over the applied prior art references by further reciting that a protruding portion of the upper lip extending around the upper section of the upper case forms the first clamping projection on one side thereof and the opposite side thereof forms the second clamping groove.

No new matter is introduced by the present amendment. In this regard, the Examiner's attention is directed to, inter alia, Fig. 2 of Applicant's application.

Applicant respectfully submits that the cited references relied upon in the rejections under 35U.S.C. 103(a) do not disclose such a combination of features. In particular, the above-noted combination of features that the protruding portion of the upper lip extending around the upper section of the upper case forms the first clamping projection on one side thereof and the opposite side thereof forms the second clamping groove is not disclosed or taught in any of the recited references.

In the rejection the Examiner asserts “Lefèvre discloses first clamping projection 16 and second clamping groove 12 at opposite sides of the lip of upper case part 7”.

On the contrary, however, Applicant respectfully submits that in Lefèvre the limitation 16 is not an opposite side of the limitation 12, as clearly seen Figs. 4, 6 and 7. Thus, Lefèvre lack at least the above-noted feature. Lewis also does not disclose or teach the above-noted feature.

However, in the presently claimed embodiment, a protruding portion of the upper lip 103 extending around the upper section 101 of the upper case 100 forms the first clamping projection 105 on one side thereof and the opposite side thereof forms the second clamping groove 107, as noted above.

Thus, claim 1, as amended, is patentable over Lefèvre and, assuming, arguendo, that the teachings of Lefèvre and Lewis can be properly combined, the asserted combination of Lewis and Sharpe would not result in the invention as recited in the claim 1.

Thus, the rejections of independent claim 1, and of claims 4, 7, and 9-12 dependent thereon, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are improper for at least these reasons, and withdrawal of such rejections are respectfully requested.


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Based on the above, it is respectfully submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Any amendments to the claims which have been made in this amendment, and which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based on prior art, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to be attached thereto.

Should the Examiner have any questions or comments regarding this response, or the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,  
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March 8, 2007  
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